unique. The entire mass as forwarded consisted of a crystallized surface, displaying small and large crystals, nestling upon an ore body of considerable size. The value in bullion of this aggregate was $640, and it probably was the largest mass of polybasite ever taken from a mine entire.

THE growth of the mineral industries of the United States is graphically exhibited by a chart just issued by the Geological Survey, tabulating for each year of the last decade the quantity and value of the output of our metallic and non-metallic mineral products. This chart shows that in 1898 the domestic production of the metals—pig iron, silver, gold, copper, lead, zinc, quicksilver, aluminum, antimony, nickel and platinum—had a total value of $305,482,183; in the same year the total value of the other mineral products amounted to $418,790,671; the grand total for the country in 1898 was therefore $724,272,854. Ten years later, at the close of the calendar year 1907, the value of the metals had increased to $903,024,005, that of the other products to $1,166,265,191, and the grand total was $2,069,289,196. The chart has interest in connection with a summary of the mineral production of the country, published by the survey as an advance chapter from "Mineral Resources of the United States, Calendar Year 1907," and copies of both the chart and the summary may be obtained by applying to the director of the survey at Washington, D. C. The survey has also published for free distribution separate chapters of its annual report on the mineral resources of the country, giving detailed statistics of many of the products that make up these totals.

Nature states that the council of the Röntgen Society has decided to act upon the advice of the committee appointed in 1906 to consider the possibility of preparing a standard for the measurement of radioactivity. This committee recommends that "The γ-ray ionization from 1 mg. of pure radium be regarded as a standard, and called a unit of radioactivity." The council has deputed Mr. C. E. S. Phillips to prepare a set of three substandards of $RaBr_2$, and these are now maturing. By the cooperation of Professor E. Rutherford, comparison will be made with a specimen of the purest $RaBr_2$ at the Victoria University, Manchester. The quantity of radium in other specimens will be capable of accurate measurement by comparison with the substandards. It is anticipated, therefore, that by this means the exact description of medical, physical or other work with radium will be facilitated, and that the possibility of fraud in the sale of expensive radium preparations will be eliminated. The council proposes to lend the substandards to any competent person desiring to measure the amount of radium in his possession, or to arrange for authoritative tests to be made. For further particulars application should be sent to the honorary secretary of the Röntgen Society, at 20 Hanover Square, London, W.

THE following, as we learn from the *British Medical Journal*, are among the prizes awarded by the Paris Académie de Médecine for 1908: The Laborde prize (£200) for the most notable advancement of surgery, has been given to Professor Monprofit, of Angers, for his work on the operative surgery of the stomach; the Theodore Herpin prize (£120) has been gained by Dr. Albert Deschamps, of Riom, for an essay on the diseases of energy—general asthenias; the Amussat prize (£40) has been awarded to Dr. Destot, of Lyons, for a radiographic and clinical study.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

IOWA COLLEGE has obtained an additional endowment of $500,000, of which $100,000 is from the general education board and $50,000 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

MR. JOHN W. GATES has given $100,000 to establish a college at Port Arthur, Texas.

MR. JACOB H. SCHIFF, of New York City, has given $100,000 towards the construction of a Jewish institute of technology at Haife, Palestine.

WE learn from the London *Times* that the foundations of the laboratory which is being given to the University of Oxford for electrical work by the Drapers' Company are now being constructed. The laboratory will measure

about 104 feet by 92 feet by 51 feet high, and will be built of red brick and stone. It will be situated in the Parks close to the other buildings devoted to science, which are grouped around the museum. The ground floor will contain a class-room 50 feet by 27 feet, a workshop of about the same dimensions, as well as research, battery and dark rooms. On the first floor provision is made for a lecture-hall 36 feet square and two class-rooms over 50 feet long, while on the second floor there will be a class-room about 100 feet long, besides large lecture and research rooms.

THE President of the United States has instructed the Commissioner of Education to aid in all appropriate ways within his power in the carrying out of the plans of the Chinese Government for the education of students in America. The Chinese Government purposes sending 100 students to America every year for four years, and a minimum of 50 students every year thereafter during the period of the cancelled indemnity payments by China to the United States, from 1909 to 1940.

PROFESSOR DONALD J. COWLING, of Baker University, Baldwin, Kas., was elected president of Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., to succeed the Rev. R. H. Sallmon.

MR. W. H. EMMONS, of the U. S. Geological Survey, is giving courses on petrography and economic geology at the University of Chicago.

DR. A. J. GROUT has been appointed first assistant in biology in the Curtis High School, New Brighton, Staten Island.

DR. ARNOLD LANG, of Zurich, has declined the call to Jena as the successor of Professor Haeckel.

PROFESSOR PFLÜGER, of Breslau, has been called to Berlin as director of the Institute of Hygiene in the place of Professor Rubner who has been transferred to the chair of physiology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A DISCLAIMER

HARDLY had the experimental researches at the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, located in Boston, been established when the scientific staff were besieged by innumerable newspaper reporters seeking information whereon they could base sensational articles for distribution in the public press. Much to my regret, a lengthy article was distributed broadcast throughout the American press on December 20, purporting to describe the Nutrition Laboratory, the experiments made therein, and the plans for the future. It is needless to say that the whole article was prepared without my knowledge and has left an entirely erroneous impression with regard to the work of this institution.

Briefly, the researches now being carried out in Boston were instituted by Professor Atwater, at Wesleyan University, some fifteen years ago. After Professor Atwater's untimely retirement, I had charge of the researches at Wesleyan University and since then they have been transferred to Boston to a special laboratory. The apparatus used at Wesleyan University has been described in detail in Publication No. 42 of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and a discussion of a series of experiments with it made on man during inanition was reported in Publication No. 77 of the institution. The forthcoming "Year-book of the Carnegie Institution" contains a short statement of the laboratory, the plan, and general information regarding it. The newer calorimeters have not been described as yet. All results of experiments made in this laboratory will be published in regularly accredited scientific journals and in the reports published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. It has been my policy not to publish original scientific material in popular scientific or semi-scientific magazines, much less would I use the daily newspaper as a vehicle for presenting this material to the scientific public.

In connection with the last newspaper announcement regarding this laboratory, there is a very unfortunate statement that as a result of experiments thus far made in the laboratory, the treatment of diabetes would be materially modified and improved, thus holding out hope to the large number afflicted with this